

## Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

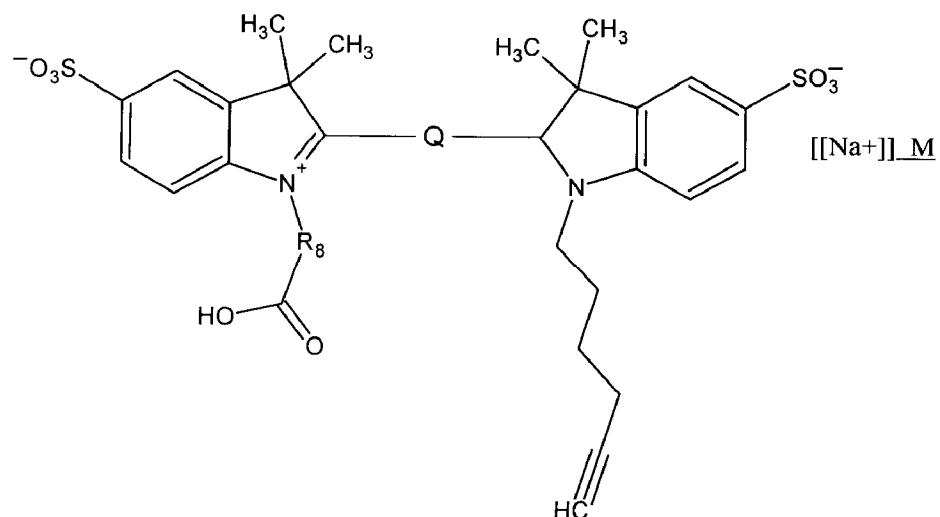
### Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)

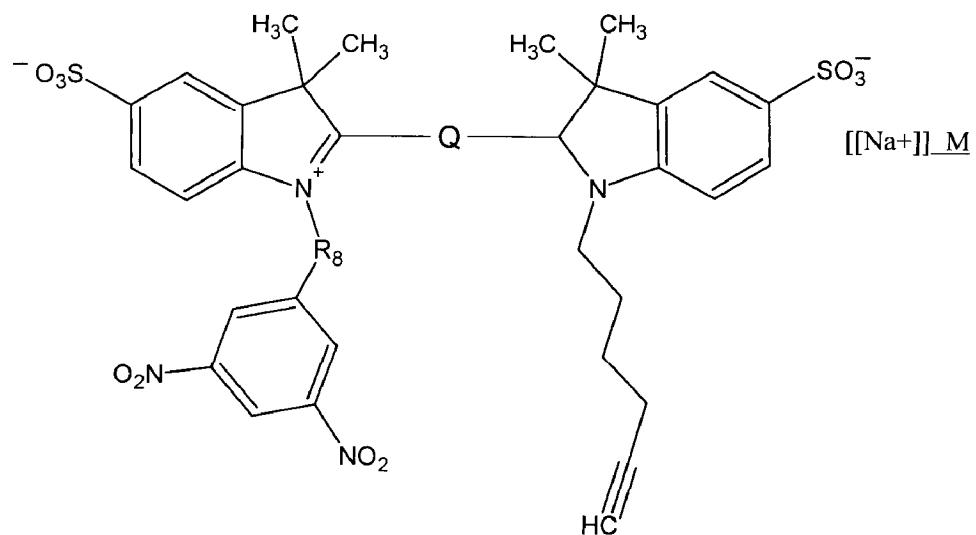
2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

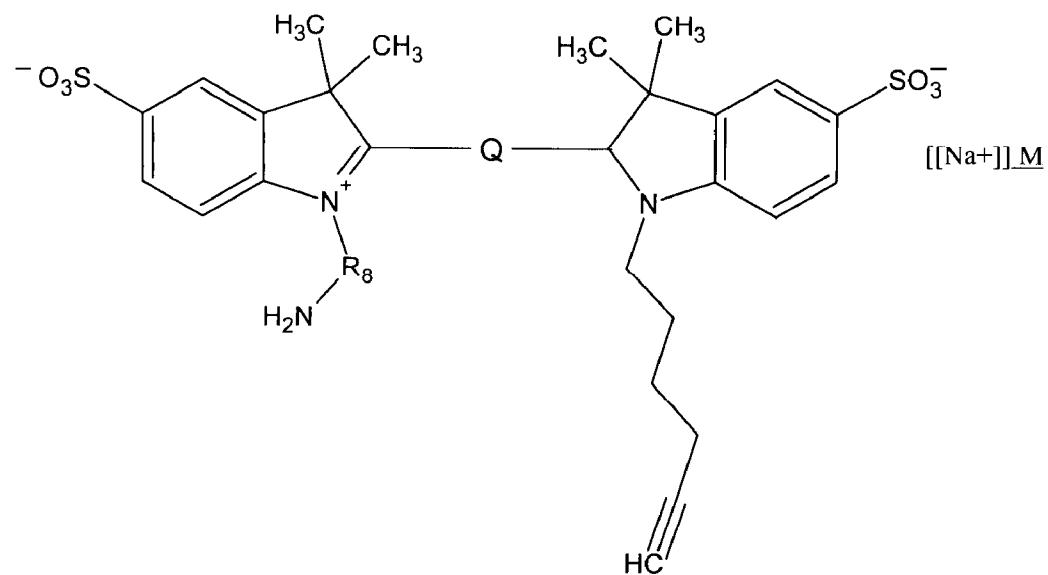
4. (currently amended) A [[The]] cyanine modified with an alkynyl-linker arm,  
according to claim 2 selected from the group consisting of:



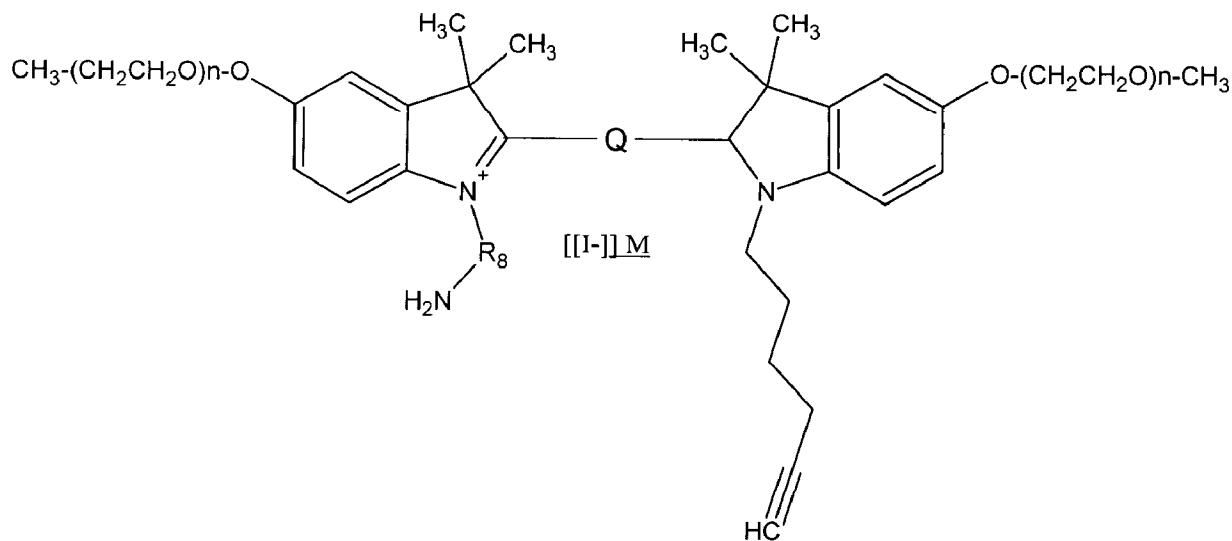
Formula (Ib-1) (Ib)<sub>2</sub>



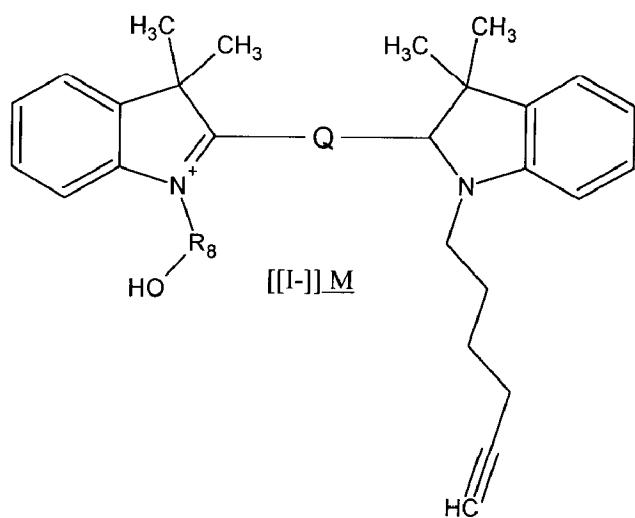
Formula (Id-1) ( $\text{Id}$ )<sub>2</sub>



Formula (Ie-1) ( $\text{Ie}$ )<sub>2</sub>

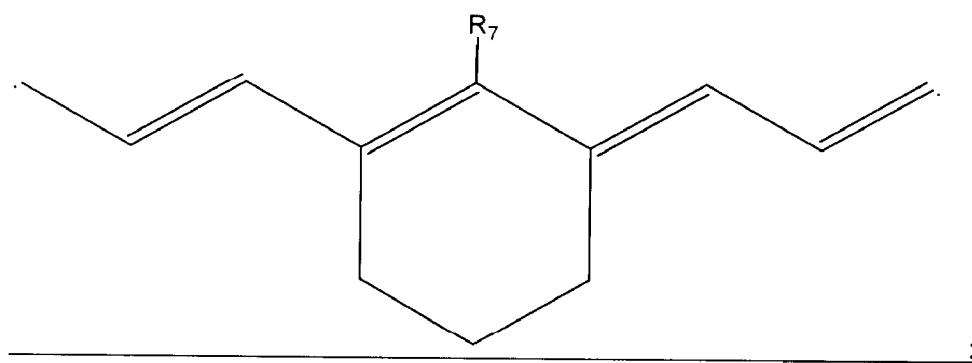
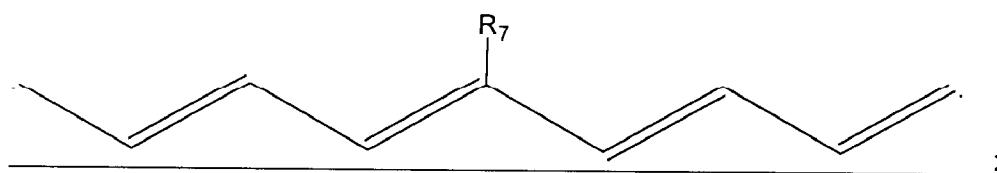
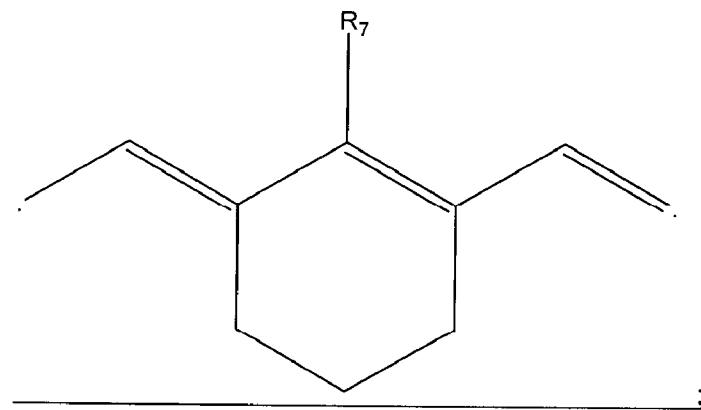
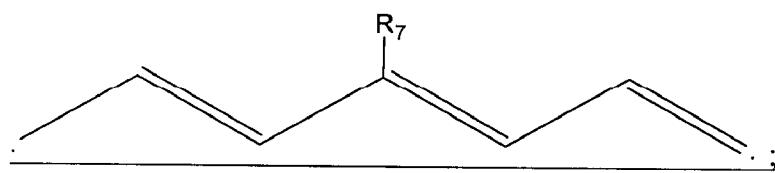
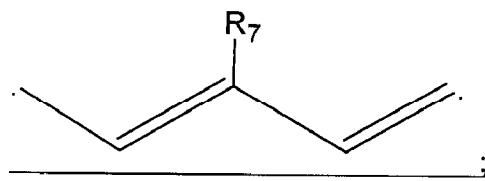


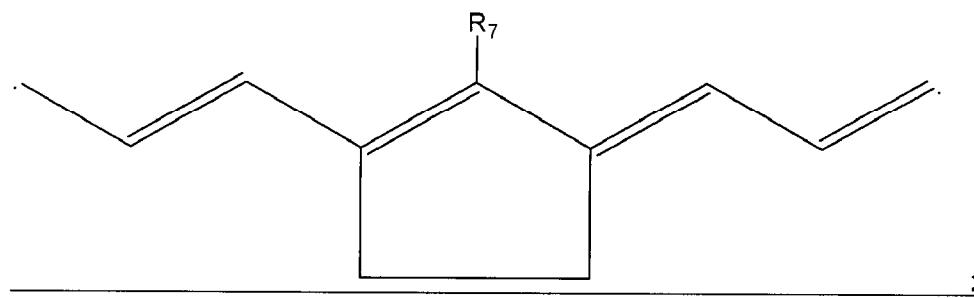
Formula (Im-1)-(Im),



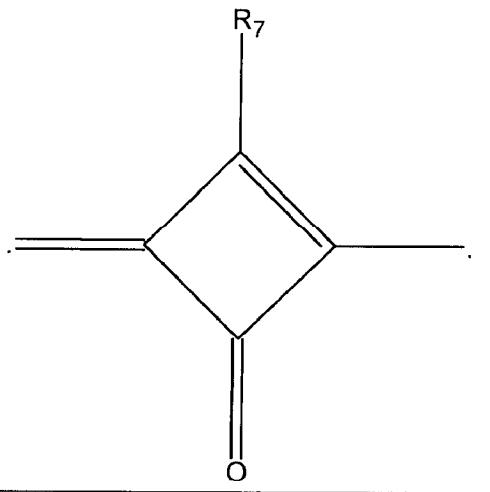
Formula (In-1)-(In),

wherein M is a counterion;  $\text{R}_8$  is a linear, saturated or unsaturated alkyl chain, having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms, wherein one or more carbon atoms are each optionally substituted by a component independently selected by an oxygen or a sulfur atom, a  $-\text{NH}-$  or a  $-\text{CONH}-$  group, or a cyclic 4-, 5- or 6- membered grouping of carbon atoms, aromatic or not aromatic, wherein one or more carbon atoms are each optionally substituted by a heteroatom independently selected from oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen or selenium; Q is a polymethinic chain selected from:





or



wherein R<sub>7</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, phenoxy, thiophenoxy, anilino, cyclohexylamino, piridine, -R<sub>8</sub>-Y, -O-R<sub>8</sub>-Y, -S-R<sub>8</sub>-Y, -NH-R<sub>8</sub>-Y, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of carboxyl, carbonyl, amino, sulphydryl, thiocyanate, isothiocyanate, isocyanate, maleimide, hydroxyl, iodoacetamido, hydrazine, aldehyde, nitrophenyl, dinitrophenyl, and trinitrophenyl, R<sub>8</sub> is as defined above, and aryl optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of -SO<sub>3</sub>H, carboxyl (-COOH), amino (-NH<sub>2</sub>), carbonyl (-CHO), thiocyanate (-SCN), isothiocyanate (-CNS), epoxy and -COZ; Q and R<sub>8</sub> are as defined in claim 1 and n is an integer between 1 and 100.

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (rejoined and currently amended) The conjugated cyanine according to claim 9 [[15]], wherein said second fluorescent dye is N,N'-Difluoroboryl-1,9-dimethyl-5-(4-iodophenyl)-

dipyrrin.

9. (rejoined and currently amended) The conjugated cyanine according to claim 4 [[15]], further comprising a second fluorescent dye, conjugated through the linker arm -R<sub>1</sub>-C≡CH, wherein said second fluorescent dye is a transition metal complex with at least one heterocyclic nitrogen-containing ligand.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (rejoined and currently amended) The cyanine according to claim 9 [[1]], further comprising a second fluorescent dye conjugated through the linker arm -R<sub>1</sub>-C≡CH, wherein said second fluorescent dye emits being capable of emitting fluorescence at wavelengths at which the cyanine absorbs is capable of absorbing, or said fluorescent dye absorbs being capable of absorbing at wavelengths at which the cyanine emits is capable of emitting.

16. (canceled)